

Agra

Agra, a city in north central India on the right bank of the Yamuna River, is the administrative headquarters of the Agra district in Uttar Pradesh state. The population is 899,195 (1991). The average annual temperature is 26 deg C (78 deg F), and rainfall averages 765 mm (30 in) annually. Although Agra has a rich Muslim heritage, the majority of its present population is Hindu. Agra was developed as a trading post and strategic capital site. Today it is a center for light industry, and tourism is significant. Agra University was founded in 1927.

Babur, founder of the Mogul Empire (1526), informally established Agra as the administrative seat of his rule. In 1566, Akbar, grandson of Babur, formally made the city the imperial capital. Agra is famous for its fine examples of Mogul architecture. These include Agra Fort, a red sandstone fortress complex, the mausoleum of Itimad-ud-daulah, and the world-renowned TAJ MAHAL, constructed of white marble by Shah Jahan as a sepulcher for his empress Mumtaz Mahal.

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Didache

{did'-uh-kee}

The Didache, also called The Teaching of the Twelve Apostles, is a brief manual of the early Christian church. It was probably written in Syria during the second half of the 1st century, although some scholars suggest a 2d-century composition. The first part is a moral treatise describing the way of the good and the way of evil. The second part contains instructions on baptism, fasting, prayer, the Eucharist, matters of church organization, apostles, prophets, bishops, and deacons. Although partially paraphrased in other ancient documents, the Didache was unknown until Philotheos Bryennios, later the Orthodox metropolitan of Nicomedia, discovered it in 1873 at the Monastery of the Holy Sepulcher in Constantinople (now Istanbul, Turkey).

See also: APOSTOLIC FATHERS.

Godfrey of Bouillon

Godfrey of Bouillon, b. c.1060, d. July 18, 1100, was a leader of the First CRUSADE and the first ruler of the Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem. Son of Count Eustace II of Boulogne and heir to the duchy of Lower Lorraine, Godfrey was excluded from his inheritance by Holy Roman Emperor Henry IV until 1082. In 1096, with his brothers, Godfrey joined the First Crusade. After the conquest of Jerusalem in 1099, he was elected ruler of the kingdom but took only the title of "Defender of the Holy Sepulcher." He repulsed an Egyptian incursion before his death at Jerusalem. His brother Baldwin I succeeded him.

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See also: JERUSALEM, LATIN KINGDOM OF.

Saqqara

{suh-kahr'-uh}

Saqqara, or Sakkara, was the necropolis, or burial place, for the ancient Egyptian city of MEMPHIS. It comprises remains from almost every period of Egypt's history. Among the most important monuments of the Old Kingdom is the Step Pyramid (see PYRAMIDS), erected about 2630 BC by IMHOTEP for King Zoser of the 3d dynasty, which rises in six layers to a height of 61 m (200 ft). Its underground passages and chambers contained thousands of stone vessels as well as beautiful reliefs representing Zoser performing religious rites. The structures around this pyramid are translations into stone of earlier wattle-and-daub buildings, and as such they constitute an invaluable record of early Egyptian architecture.

To the northwest of this complex is the Serapeum, a vast subterranean passage dating from the New Kingdom, containing niches in which the APIS bulls were buried. Among the private tombs of nearly all periods, those of the nobles of the 5th and 6th dynasties are noteworthy for their painted scenes of daily life. The finest and best preserved of these belong to the tomb of Ty, a high court official and wealthy landowner of the 5th dynasty. The Monastery of Saint Jeremiah, founded by the Copts in the 5th century AD, includes two churches, a refectory, and various workshops.

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sep·tu·ple (sep tŏŏ'p'l, -tyŏŏ'p'l, -tup'l; sep'tuŏŏ'p'l, -tyŏŏ'p'l, -tup'l) *n.* consisting of or including seven 2. seven times as much or as many; sevenfold —*n.* an amount seven times as much or as many —*adj.* *vi.* -pled, -pling to make or become seven times as much or as many; multiply by seven **sep·tu·plet** (sep tŏŏ'p'līt, -tyŏŏ'p'līt; sep'tuŏŏ'p'līt, -tyŏŏ'p'līt) *n.* any of seven offspring born at a single [dim. or prec.] 1. any of seven usually of one kind birth 2. a collection or group of seven, usually of one kind **sep·ul·cher** (sep'yŏŏ'ker) *n.* [ME. < OFr. *sepulchre* < L. *sepulcrum* < *sepelire*, to bury < IE. **sepel-*, veneration < base **sep-*, to honor, whence Sans. *śṛpāti*, (he) cult-ates, cherishes] 1. a vault for burial; grave; tomb 2. a place for the safekeeping of relics, as in an altar —*adj.* to place in a sepulcher; bury **se·pul·chral** (sə pul'krəl) *adj.* [L. *sepulchralis*] 1. of sepulchers, burial, etc. 2. suggestive of the grave or burial; dismal; gloomy 3. deep and melancholy; said of sound —*se·pul·chral·ly adv.* **sep·ul·chre** (sep'yŏŏ'kar) *n.* *vt.* -chred, -chring *Brit. sp.* of SEPULCHER